

July 13, 1999

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 1999, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee, Messerlian\*, O'Donnell\*, Walker and Mayor Hardison.

\*Councilmembers Messerlian and O'Donnell arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows,  
City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

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Mayor Hardison announced that subsequent to the posting of the agenda on Thursday, July 8, 1999, City staff met with representatives of Southern California Edison regarding a pipeline franchise extension and undergrounding of utilities along Artesia Boulevard and that Council direction was needed in order to meet Edison's proposed timeline for the undergrounding project. As a two-thirds vote of the Council is required by the California Government Code to add an item to the agenda, a motion was made by Councilman Horwich and seconded by Councilman Lee to add the item to Agenda Item 16 – Executive Session.

Agenda Item 16 was considered out of order at this time.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to Government Code Section Nos. 54957.6, 54956.9(c) and 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda.

At 7:10 p.m., the Council returned to Council Chambers, and the meeting reconvened in regular agenda order. No formal action was taken on any matter heard in closed session.

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**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop #310, Bruce Maass, Scoutmaster.

Pastor Charley Miller, Hope Chapel Community Foursquare Church, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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Mayor Hardison asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Bamma McGham, a long-time volunteer at the Farmer's Market, and Ava Cripe, a retired City of Torrance minute secretary.

Councilman Walker shared his remembrance of Ava Cripe, whom he first met in 1969.

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**3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING**

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

**4. WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6a. RESOLUTION NO. 99-86 RE TROY A. HOPPERT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-86**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING  
TROY A. HOPPERT UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
THE CITY AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-86. The motion was seconded by Councilman Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison presented the resolution to Mr. Hoppert, and Transit Director Whittle commended Mr. Hoppert and Mr. Zirpolo (Agenda Item 6b) for their many years of public service.

**6b. RESOLUTION NO. 99-87 RE RONALD ZIRPOLO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-87**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING  
RONALD ZIRPOLO UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
THE CITY AFTER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-87. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison presented the resolution to Mr. Zirpolo.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilman Walker requested that Consent Calendar Item 7k be considered separately.

**7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 25, 1999**

**7b. AMENDMENT RE WATER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council:

- 1) Approve an amendment to an existing agreement with ASL Consulting Engineers to provide additional design services in an amount not to exceed \$18,880.00; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest said amendment.

**7c. SELECTION OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

**Recommendation**

The Finance Director recommends that City Council approve a three-year auditing service agreement with KPMG Peat Marwick to provide external auditing services to the City in the amount of \$56,500 for fiscal year 1999, \$58,000 for fiscal year 2000, and \$59,500 for fiscal year 2001.

**7d. PURCHASE ORDERS RE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT FOR WAREHOUSE/  
WATER STOCK**

**Recommendation**

The General Services Director and the Engineering Director recommend that City Council authorize purchase orders for the purchase of the annual requirement for Warehouse/Water Stock.

**7e. TORRANCE DISASTER COUNCIL 1998/1999 REPORT**

**Recommendation**

The Chief of Police and the Torrance Disaster Council recommend that City Council accept and file the Torrance Disaster Council 1998/99 Report.

**7f. PURCHASE ORDER RE PERVO BRAND TRAFFIC PAINT**

**Recommendation**

The Street Services Director recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to Pervo Paint Company of Los Angeles, CA, in the anticipated amount of \$50,000 for the sole source purchase of Pervo brand paint on an "as needed basis."

**7g. PURCHASE ORDER RE TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND SIGNAL HARDWARE**

**Recommendation**

The Street Services Director recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to Econolite Products of Anaheim, CA, in the anticipated amount of \$85,000, plus a 5% contingency of \$4,250, for a total of \$89,250 for the sole source purchase of traffic control equipment and signal hardware on an "as needed basis."

**7h. PUBLIC WORKS AGREEMENT RE 1998/99 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT**

**Recommendation**

The Street Services Director recommends that City Council:

- 1) Authorize staff to enter into a standard Public Works Agreement with Roy Allen Slurry Seal, Inc. in the amount of \$152,448.80;
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency of \$7,622.44 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$160,071.24.

**7i. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council accept donations to the Police Department as noted in material of record.

**7j. REJECTION OF PROPOSALS RE FORMER YWCA FACILITY**

**Recommendation**

The Parks and Recreation Director recommends that City Council reject the proposals from organizations interested in leasing space at the former YWCA facility.

**7k. CONTRACT RE CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE**

Considered separately, see page 5.

**7l. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICE AGREEMENT RE WELL NO. 7**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director recommends that City Council:

- 1) Approve an agreement with Dames & Moore for Professional Engineering Services in the amount of \$98,465 for Well No. 7 water quality evaluation and recommendation;
- 2) Authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$4,923 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$103,388; and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to the agreement on behalf of the City.

**7m. CONTRACT RE CIVIC CENTER PARKING LOT LIGHTING**

**Recommendation**

The General Services Director recommends that City Council award a contract to Cyphers Electric, Torrance CA for installation of parking lot lighting in the Civic Center in an amount not to exceed \$49,500.

**7n. PURCHASE ORDER RE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF HYPOCHLORITE SOLUTION**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director and the Finance Director recommend that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to Jones Chemicals, Inc. of Torrance, California, in the amount of \$170,482, for the City's annual requirement of hypochlorite solution (12%) on an "as requested basis."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m and 7n. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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Consent Calendar Item 7k was considered separately at this time.

**7k. CONTRACT RE CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE**

**Recommendation**

The Information Systems Director recommends that City Council award a one-year contract to AirTouch Cellular to provide cellular phone service to the City for an amount not-to-exceed \$30,500.

Councilman Lee announced that he would be abstaining from consideration of this item due to a previously disclosed business relationship with a principal involved.

Councilman Walker stated that he would prefer to hold this matter for one week so that additional information regarding the applicants could be provided.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Cribbs moved to award the one-year contract to AirTouch Cellular. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hardison and passed by unanimous roll call vote, with Councilman Lee abstaining.

**9. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**9a. DEL AMO BOULEVARD TRAFFIC CALMING MODIFICATIONS**

**Recommendation**

The Planning Director recommends that City Council consider Traffic Calming Measures on Del Amo Boulevard between Henrietta Street and the Western City Boundary.

Councilman Horwich announced that he would not be participating in consideration of this matter because he resides within 300 feet of the subject area and exited Council Chambers.

Mayor Hardison noted supplemental material available at the meeting and indicated that she had received a letter from Peter Lam, 20104 Wayne Avenue, which would be included in the official record.

Acting Traffic and Transportation Planning Manager Sedadi presented the staff report (per written material of record). In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry, Ms. Sedadi advised that the option of installing an enhanced crosswalk at the Wayne Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard intersection was not pursued because it was meant to work as part of the single-lane concept. Mr. Mark Miller, Vice President of Albert Grover and Associates, traffic consultants for the project, provided clarification of the new traffic studies conducted at the Council's request, explaining that they did not significantly vary from the ones taken in the summer of 1998.

Councilman Walker stated that he still favored the installation of a signal at Wayne Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard, as he had indicated at the previous hearing on this matter, and asked if there were any reasons why this would not be a viable solution. Ms. Sedadi responded that there were no safety issues or other factors that would preclude the installation of a signal at this location.

Mayor Hardison pointed out that while a traffic signal would improve vehicular access onto Del Amo Boulevard and provide a safer pedestrian crossing, it would not necessarily slow speeding traffic at times when there is little cross traffic and the light remains green. Ms. Sedadi advised that the signal could be phased to turn red more frequently to achieve the desired result.

Mayor Hardison invited public comment.

Ms. June Horwich, 5537 Michelle Drive, stated that the new traffic study does not accurately reflect the volume of traffic in the area because it was done while Del Amo Boulevard was undergoing construction; that reducing traffic to one lane in each direction would result in traffic congestion rather than traffic calming; and that Del Amo Boulevard is a main artery and not comparable to Maple Avenue/235<sup>th</sup> Street where lane reduction was effective in slowing traffic. She urged the Council to leave Del Amo a four-lane street, to install a signal at Wayne and Del Amo where most accidents have occurred, and to install a barrier on the southwest corner to protect the house that has been hit twice.

Mr. Al Hofer, 20013 Wayne Avenue, maintained that the traffic study was seriously flawed and expressed support for installing a signal at Wayne and Del Amo. He related his understanding that a condominium project was planned for the oil well lot at Redbeam and Del Amo and questioned whether a signal was being proposed at this location for the convenience of the new development.

Mr. Robert Lacy, 20120 Wayne Avenue, voiced support for a signal at Wayne and Del Amo and indicated that he had no preference regarding the issue of lane reduction on Del Amo.

Ms. Helen Hortter, 20117 Wayne Avenue, suggested the possibility of installing a stop sign with a blinking light, as a less expensive alternative to a traffic signal, or using raised speed bumps on Del Amo Boulevard. Mayor Hardison explained that the City's traffic calming strategy specifies that speed bumps are not to be used on arterial streets.

Mr. William Mason, 19707 Redbeam Avenue, recommended retaining the four lanes on Del Amo Boulevard, reducing the speed limit to 35 miles an hour between Prospect and Henrietta, and installing a pedestrian crossing at Redbeam and Del Amo with proper signage. He stated that he did not believe there was a need for a traffic signal and expressed concerns that the developer of the oil well site might attempt to use parking along Del Amo Boulevard as guest parking for the tract.

Planning Director Gibson offered clarification that the westerly portion of the oil site is in Redondo Beach; that communications from the City of Redondo Beach indicate that no applications have been submitted for development of the site; and that the Torrance Planning Department has had some discussions with a potential developer of a small triangular portion of the property, but no plans have been submitted or application filed. He noted that City standards specify that all code-required guest and resident parking for multi-unit developments must be provided on-site.

Mr. Mel MacArthur, 20363 Wayne Avenue, stated that several years ago the City spent money to increase the number of lanes on Del Amo Boulevard from two to four and that eliminating them now would be regressive. He indicated that he has great difficulty turning onto Del Amo from Wayne during morning and evening hours and contended that reducing Del Amo to a single lane would make it almost impossible.

Mr. Jerry Katzen, 20121 Redbeam Avenue, at the corner of Redbeam and Del Amo, voiced opposition to the installation of a traffic signal and the reduction of lanes on Del Amo Boulevard. He stated that his family would be subjected to fumes from vehicles waiting for the signal to change; that reducing Del Amo from four lanes to two would only increase congestion; and that the money would be better spent elsewhere for schools, libraries or some other worthwhile project.

Mr. James Clark, 19510 Tomlee Avenue, related his opinion that installing a signal at Redbeam and Del Amo was preferable to installing one at Wayne and Del Amo. He noted that the accidents at the Wayne intersection were caused by drunk drivers and would not have been prevented by a signal, and he contended that when the oil site is eventually developed, a signal at Redbeam will be essential. He expressed support for the reduction of lanes, pointing out that when construction reduced Del Amo Boulevard to only one lane, traffic volume was significantly reduced, and stated that he believed residents would be pleasantly surprised by the results.

Mr. Walt Bacon, 20115 Redbeam, stated that he saw no reason to install a signal at Redbeam and Del Amo or to narrow the roadway from four lanes to two and that he thought the City could find a better way to spend money rather than creating traffic congestion.

Ms. Donna Steele, 20512 Wayne Avenue, stated that Wayne and Del Amo Boulevard is such a dangerous intersection that she has never let her daughter cross it to visit the park, and that a traffic signal is the best solution.

Ms. Carole Mingay, 20125 Wayne Avenue, the northwest corner of Del Amo and Wayne, commented on accidents that have occurred at the intersection involving her property and urged the Council to install a traffic signal at the intersection. She indicated that she did not support reducing Del Amo to a single lane in each direction.

Mr. Jon Yamasaki, 19603 Redbeam Avenue, asked whether the single-lane plan would include parking on Del Amo Boulevard. Ms. Sedadi responded that there would be no parking on Del Amo and that the extra space would be used for a bike lane. Mr. Yamasaki related his past experience as a child walking to schools in the area and voiced support for a signal at Wayne and Del Amo.

Mr. James Ecklund, 20124 Wayne Avenue, distributed information to the Council and indicated that he was the one who originally brought this matter to the Traffic Commission's attention in August of 1998. He pointed out that any decision that is made will upset some of the residents and urged the Council to support the Planning Department's recommendation because they are the experts and the only ones with an unbiased opinion.

Ms. Joan Padelford, 5503 Konya Drive, offered clarification that it was her property that was damaged in the accidents to which Mr. Clark referred and that only one of the incidents involved a drunk driver. She expressed support for installing a signal at Wayne and Del Amo and reducing Del Amo to a single lane in each direction in order to slow down traffic. Responding to the contention that the money would be better spent on something else, she noted that currently a lot of lives are in danger and that it has cost several thousand dollars to repair her property.

Ms. Jan Vogt, 5635 Towers Street, voiced strong opposition to the installation of a signal in the neighborhood because it would encourage cut-through traffic.

Ms. Jackie Caro, 20124 Wayne Avenue, stated that while the situation at Del Amo Boulevard is not exactly the same as at Maple Avenue/235<sup>th</sup> Street, she still believed that narrowing the roadway to one lane in each direction would be effective in slowing traffic without causing a lot of congestion.

Mr. Frank Rubio, 20324 Wayne Avenue, pointed out that traffic signals will not slow down traffic at two or three o'clock in the morning when the lights remain green, and he suggested installing four-way stop signs. Mayor Hardison explained that the signals can be phased to turn red in the late night/early morning hours when there is little traffic.



Ms. Bonniegay Bacon, 20115 Redbeam Avenue, stated that she opposed installing a traffic signal at Redbeam and reducing Del Amo Boulevard from four lanes to two.

In response to Mayor Hardison, Police Chief Herren explained the procedure for setting speed limits based on speed surveys so that they can be enforced by police officers using radar and confirmed that they cannot be lowered arbitrarily. Ms. Sedadi noted that the speed limit on Del Amo Boulevard has been lowered from 45 to 40 miles per hour and expressed doubts that it could be lowered any further.

City Manager Jackson reported on the status of the proposal to extend Del Amo Boulevard from Maple Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard.

**MOTION:** Councilman Walker moved to authorize the installation of a traffic signal at Del Amo Boulevard and Wayne Avenue, reconfirming the Council's previous approval in May, 1999, of a guardrail on the southwest corner. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman O'Donnell and passed by unanimous roll call vote, with Councilman Horwich abstaining.

Mayor Hardison commented that the residents may in the future request a reconfiguration of Del Amo Boulevard if further traffic calming is indicated.

Councilman Horwich returned to the dais.

**11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**11a. RESOLUTION NO. 99-84 RE CERTAIN MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation that the City Council adopt a resolution for Certain Management Employees setting Pay Points for the City Manager and the City Attorney.

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-84**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 99-73 SETTING  
FORTH CHANGES REGARDING WAGES, HOURS AND  
WORKING CONDITIONS FOR CERTAIN MANAGEMENT  
EMPLOYEES.**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-84. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman O'Donnell\*).

\*Councilwoman O'Donnell briefly exited Council Chambers.

**11b. RESOLUTION NO. 99-89 RE TPSA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council adopt a supplemental TPSA Memorandum of Understanding amending the deferred compensation section.

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-89**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE  
TORRANCE PROFESSIONAL AND SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION  
(TPSA)  
SUPPLEMENTAL #4**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 98-121 SETTING  
FORTH HOURS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR  
EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE  
PROFESSIONAL AND SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION (TPSA)**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-84. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilwoman O'Donnell).

**11c. AGREEMENT RE UPGRADE OF FIRE FIGHTERS**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council approve an agreement between the Torrance Fire Fighters Association (TFFA) and Management regarding the reallocation of three (3) Fire Fighter positions to Fire Engineer positions in the 1999-2000 Fire Department budget, which provides for certain changes in premium assignments in the current MOU between TFFA and the City of Torrance.

**MOTION:** Councilman Walker moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**12. HEARINGS**

**12a. VACATION OF SERVICE ROAD ON SOUTH SIDE OF PACIFIC COAST HWY.**

**Recommendation**

The Engineering Director recommends that following a public hearing City Council approve and adopt a resolution ordering the vacation of a portion of the service road on the South Side of Pacific Coast Highway east of Crenshaw Boulevard.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing had been properly advertised.

Senior Division Engineer Perkins presented the staff report, explaining that the vacation would affect the portion of the service road in front of the existing restaurant (formerly the Parasol Restaurant), that the vacated area would be incorporated into the adjacent commercial site, and that public access into the service road from Crenshaw Boulevard would be closed off. He noted that access to the service road from Pacific Coast Highway, which serves nearby residential properties, would remain the same.

Councilman Messerlian questioned whether the Planning Department had received an application to develop the subject property. Planning Director Gibson reported that staff has had discussions with a potential developer of the site interested in building a drug store and that the proposed design of the drug store incorporates the vacated property. He noted that the developer had done some community outreach and received significant feedback on some aspects of the proposal, including strong opposition to the location of driveways on Dalemead Street. He emphasized that nothing has been formally submitted to the department and that any development would have to go through the Conditional Use Permit process which would include a public hearing before the Planning Commission.

Ms. Cora Mondor, 2657 Dalemead Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed vacation, stating that the service road is utilized by nearby residents on Pacific Coast Highway; that the vacation is premature because Walgreens has not agreed to buy the property yet; and that access from Crenshaw Boulevard has always been a problem for that site. She commented that surrounding residents were not notified of this hearing reporting that the only notification was a sign on a telephone pole.

Mr. Mike Villano, 2432 Nearcliff Street, proposed using the vacated land to create a turn-out lane for buses so that they could load and unload passengers without blocking traffic. He expressed his opinion that allowing Walgreens to have exits on Dalemead Street would be disastrous for the neighborhood.

Mr. Brad Lewis, 2660 Brian Avenue, stated that he strongly opposes allowing Walgreens to build two driveways on Dalemead Street because it would encourage cut-through traffic and exacerbate existing problems in the neighborhood.

Mr. Mike de la Pena, 2652 Brian Avenue, noted his agreement with the previous speaker. He recommended using the vacated land to extend the proposed right-hand turn lane on Crenshaw Boulevard to provide an acceleration lane for vehicles merging onto Pacific Coast Highway rather than turning it over to a private property owner. He commented that should the Council address the vacation without taking into consideration the potential development of the site and the ramifications to the adjacent residential area, they would be acting in bad faith.

Mr. Ken Mowry, 2617 Brian Avenue, stated that there is a lot of traffic at the corner of Brian Avenue and Dalemead Street, as well as a school bus stop, and that a Walgreens driveway in the vicinity would only make matters worse.

Mr. William Doug Owings, 2429 Nearcliff Street, expressed support for using the vacated land as an extension of the right-turn lane or as a bus loading area. He stated that commercial and residential traffic do not mix and that Walgreens should not be allowed to locate driveways on Dalemead Street.

Ms. Britta Latto, 2425 Faircross Street, explained that the only practical way for Walgreens customers exiting at Dalemead Street to gain access to southbound Crenshaw Boulevard would be to drive through the residential tract to the signal at Crest Road and Crenshaw Boulevard, a situation that would not be beneficial to the neighborhood.

Noting that as part of this proposal, the property owner is proposing to dedicate a portion of his property to the City for construction of a right-hand turn lane on Crenshaw Boulevard, Mr. Eric Rigler, 2662 Dalemead Street, expressed concerns that construction of the turn lane might encourage more illegal U-turns on his block by motorists seeking to avoid the back-up in the left-hand turn lane on southbound Crenshaw Boulevard at Pacific Coast Highway.

Mr. Brian Felsman, 2505 Dalemead Street, stated that as a result of this vacation, he would not want a future development on the site to be precluded from having a driveway on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Mr. David Martin, 2420 Nearcliff Street, voiced his opposition to the vacation and suggested increasing police enforcement efforts to discourage illegal U-turns and the blockage of the intersection at Dalemead and Crenshaw.

Mr. Tom Rettig, 2507 Brian Avenue, commented on illegal U-turns at Dalemead and Crenshaw, noting that he had narrowly avoided being hit earlier in the day.

Mr. David LaPoff, 2508 Dalemead Street, questioned whether the construction of the right-hand turn lane would interfere with future access to the site from Crenshaw Boulevard.

Mr. Bill Beverly, 3424 Carson Street, Suite 100, representing Dr. Arthur Berke, the property owner, stated that he wished to dispel the notion that the proposed vacation was related to a particular project, explaining that Dr. Berke has been working with the City for almost five years to reconfigure this parcel. He noted that as a condition of this vacation, Dr. Berke is dedicating 7.5 feet of the northwesterly side of his property for a right-hand turn lane to help alleviate the back-up of traffic on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Returning to the podium, Mr. Mike de la Pena pointed out the Dr. Berke would be gaining approximately 3000 square feet of property with the vacation and dedicating approximately half of that amount to the City.

Mr. Marco Botich, architect, indicated that he had been working on this project with Dr. Berke for five years and had explored many different options. He pointed out that the portion of the service road being vacated is currently functioning as a used car lot where people illegally park cars for sale, and expressed his opinion that the vacation, along with Dr. Berke's dedication of a portion of his property to the City, was the best solution for this site.

**MOTION:** Councilman Walker moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Responding to comments from the audience, Mr. Perkins provided clarification regarding the notification process for vacation actions and advised that a bus turn-out lane would not be feasible at this location. He explained that the property owner's dedication of land for the right-hand turn lane was not designed to be an equal trade for the City's vacation but was viewed as an opportunity to improve traffic circulation at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard while addressing the issue of vehicles being parked on the service road with "for sale" signs. He noted that a portion of the vacated area will be encumbered by a drainage easement and that the property

owner will be required to construct a culvert to direct runoff flowing down from Crenshaw Boulevard.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry, Planning Director Gibson confirmed that the vacation would not affect any existing access points to Dr. Berke's property.

Councilman Walker commented favorably on the proposed vacation. Noting that most of the concerns expressed by residents relate to Walgreens' proposal to locate driveways on Dalemead Street, he pointed out that the vacation does not alter existing access to the property and that the Council would continue to have authority over the future development of the site including ingress/egress issues.

**MOTION:** Councilman Walker moved to concur with the recommendation of the Engineering Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee, and discussion continued.

Councilman Messerlian questioned whether it might be prudent to defer action on the vacation of the service road until it can be considered in conjunction with the development of the parcel. Mr. Perkins explained staff's rationale for recommending that the vacation go forward at this time and noted that the vacation would not be irrevocable.

Councilwoman O'Donnell commented that it could be difficult to get the property back once it has been vacated and indicated that she believed the matter needed further study.

The motion passed by a 5-2 majority roll call vote, with Councilmembers Messerlian and O'Donnell dissenting.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 99-90**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF THE SERVICE ROAD ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY EAST OF CRENSHAW BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-90. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by 5-2 majority roll call vote, with Councilmembers Messerlian and O'Donnell dissenting.

Councilman Messerlian commented that he thought that action should be deferred until a project concerning the subject property is brought forward and the matter could be looked at in totality.

Councilman Walker voiced his opinion the vacation stood on its own as a solution to problems at the Crenshaw Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway intersection and advised that the Council would consider the development of the site at the appropriate time making sure the adjacent neighborhood is protected.

Councilman Horwich indicated that he shared Councilman Walker's opinion and noted that any future plans for the property would require a Conditional Use Permit, at which time residents' concerns would be addressed.

Mayor Hardison requested that the record from tonight's proceedings be included in future transmittals concerning the development of the site. Planning Director Gibson confirmed that they would be made a part of the staff report in the event a project is brought before the Planning Commission.

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The Council briefly recessed from 9:43 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.

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## **12b. BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE BLOCK GRANT**

### **Recommendation**

The Chief of Police and the City Manager recommend that City Council review the meeting minutes of the 1998 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Block Grant Local Advisory Board and, after holding a public hearing for comment regarding the proposed uses of block grant funds, approve and allocate said funds and accrued interest to the recommended programs.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing had been properly advertised.

Police Chief Herren presented the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Local Advisory Board's recommendation regarding the use and allocation of block grant funds towards a computer automation project, Autocite hardware, a forensic computer lab and recruitment efforts.

Mayor Hardison expressed the hope that in the future, grant funds would be used for projects that reach out into the community.

Mayor Hardison invited public comment, and there being no requests to speak, the public hearing was closed.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Cribbs moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to concur with the Local Advisory Board recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

## **12c. LICENSE FEE STRUCTURE RE TAXICAB SERVICE OPERATORS AND DRIVERS**

### **Recommendation**

The Finance Director recommends that City Council adopt a resolution to the fee structure for obtaining a business license for taxicab owners and drivers. The revised fee structure will be a \$500 non-refundable application fee, an annual business license fee of \$500 for taxicab owners, and annual \$100 vehicle permit fee, and a \$75 driver's permit fee.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing had been properly advertised.

Assistant Finance Director Flewellyn indicated that he was available to answer any questions on the fee structure.

Mayor Hardison invited public comment, and there being no requests to speak, the public hearing was closed.

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 99-91**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING A REVISED FEE STRUCTURE TO OBTAIN A BUSINESS LICENSE FOR TAXICAB SERVICE OPERATORS AND DRIVERS**

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-91. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Redevelopment Agency was in joint session with the City Council from 5:30 p.m. to 9:57 p.m.

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### **15. OTHER**

#### **15a. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilman Horwich commented on the success of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and the Torrance Air Fair.

Councilman Lee stated that the fireworks display was the perfect length.

Councilwoman O'Donnell also commented favorably on the fireworks display and the Air Fair.

Mayor Hardison explained that the arts and crafts booths were missing from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration due to the construction of the gym at Wilson Park and would return next year.

Dr. Lester Goldsmith, San Pedro, commented on the practices of the merchants at Del Amo Fashion Center regarding shoplifting.

Mr. Charlie Oats spoke regarding pension determination methods.

Mr. Jose Navarette, Political Affairs representative of AFSCME, extended an invitation to the Mayor and Council to attend a community forum on the proposed transit route restructuring.

Staff was questioned about the banners displayed in various locations in the City, and City Manager Jackson indicated that a report would come back to Council shortly.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:27 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, July 20, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m.

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***Adjourned in Memory of  
Ava Cripe and Bamma McGham***

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

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City Clerk of the City of Torrance